



July 10, 2020

Hays County well owners,

The Kinder Morgan Pipeline Company is constructing a large natural gas pipeline from west to east through central Hays County that will convey 2 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day from the Permian Basin to the Houston area.

The new pipeline will be buried 15-feet below grade which requires disturbing a wide swath of natural landscape across the county. The pipeline will pass directly over terrain that is highly porous and vulnerable to surface contamination. District geologists have spent 20-years surveying faults and recharge features that can act as direct conduits into the same Trinity Aquifer from which you may get your drinking water.

The Texas Railroad Commission is the regulatory agency in charge of Oil and Gas transmission. The Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District has no authority to regulate pipeline routing or construction, however we are mandated to protect the resource that most of Hays County relies on for clean drinking water. In the interest of public safety, the District has developed an information packet that local well owners may refer in the event of a construction, transmission, or operations accidents.

The Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District has 738 registered water wells that fall within 5-miles of the pipeline's path. We consider those wells to be the most vulnerable to contamination in the event of a construction accident or transmission rupture. Most pipelines operate safely and without incident, but due to a March 2020 Kinder Morgan pipeline accident that occurred in Blanco County, we must take the threat of accidents seriously.

Threats to wells from pipeline construction include silt contamination from right-of-way clearing, pipeline boring, trenching, and/or and construction machinery fuel or hydraulic oil spills. Transmission threats include accidental punctures, pipeline joint failures, and operational accidents that may leak and contaminate land and drinking water sources. If the pipeline catches fire or explodes, fire suppression chemicals may be used to extinguish the flames. Those chemicals could infiltrate our highly porous geology and contribute to groundwater contamination.

**STAFF & BOARD**

**Charlie Flatten**  
*General Manager*

**Philip Webster**  
*Hydrogeologist*

**Keaton Hoelscher**  
*Geo-Technician*

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P. O. Box 1648, Dripping Springs, Texas 78620  
Center Lake Business Park, 14101 Hwy. 290 West, Bldg. 100, Ste. 212 Austin, TX 78737  
telephone 512-858-9253 | fax 512-858-2384  
www.haysgroundwater.com

Please report pipeline accidents to the Hays County Sherriff's Department, the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District and Kinder Morgan (see numbers below). Please report well contamination to the District at (512) 858-9253. We will notify neighboring registered well owners and ask them to report changes in the quality or quantity of their well water.

If you have an unregistered well, please fill out an online registration form on the Forms page of the District website (<http://haysgroundwater.com/forms/well-registration-reg-exist>). And, if you are unsure if your contact information is current, please email the District and we will update you in our well database -- free of charge. Remember, property owners with registered wells are more likely to benefit from legal standing in a court of law.

Below is a list of emergency numbers, testing laboratories, and here is a link to the [Kinder Morgan FAQ Sheet](#).



Thank you,

Charlie Flatten, General Manager  
Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District  
[www.haysgroundwater.com](http://www.haysgroundwater.com)  
512/858.9253

## **Important telephone numbers**

**PLEASE Call Before You Dig!: 811**

**Hays County Emergency Services (Fire, Sheriff, Ambulance): 911**

**Hays County Groundwater Conservation District: (512) 858-9253**

Anytime your well has a rapid change in water quality, we will inspect your well, take a water sample and test for contaminants.

**Hays County Natural Resources: (512) 393-2156**

**Kinder Morgan Pipeline hotline: (866) 762-8442**

*If you believe that a pipeline leak has occurred, please call this Kinder Morgan Pipeline hotline immediately.*

**[Click here to download the PHP Project Frequently Asked Questions](#)**

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## **Well Testing Laboratory Contact Information**

### **Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District – HTGCD: Philip Webster**

Dripping Springs  
512/858.9253

The District will test the water quality of your well if it shows signs of contamination. If your well water is cloudy or its taste or odor changes suddenly, please call our testing service and we will come inspect your well and take a water sample for testing.

In the event that well owners desire baseline water quality testing, the following Laboratories are equipped to handle an array of water quality tests; and with the exception of the GBRA have dedicated staff to do on-site sample gathering. *All financial costs for baseline test sampling will be the responsibility of individual well owners.*

### **Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center – EARDC: Joe Guerro**

220 E Sessom Dr, San Marcos, TX 78666

[JG@txstate.edu](mailto:JG@txstate.edu)

512/787.1582

<https://www.eardc.txstate.edu/lab-services.html>

### **Lower Colorado River Authority – LCRA: Jason Woods**

LCRA Environmental Laboratory Services

3505 Montopolis Drive, Austin, TX 78744

512/730.5339

[https://www.lcra.org/services/els/Pages/Lead-and-Copper.aspx?source=LC-mkt-2020-01&gclid=EAlaIqobChMI15XS8KLX6AIVENbACh24\\_QXNEAAYASAAEglySfD\\_BwE](https://www.lcra.org/services/els/Pages/Lead-and-Copper.aspx?source=LC-mkt-2020-01&gclid=EAlaIqobChMI15XS8KLX6AIVENbACh24_QXNEAAYASAAEglySfD_BwE)

### **Guadalupe Blanco River Authority – GBRA: Jennifer Sanchez**

GBRA Laboratory Analyses

933 East Court Street, Seguin, TX 78155

Office: 830-379-5822

Email: [lab@gbra.org](mailto:lab@gbra.org)

Prices: <https://gbra.org/lab/privatewells.aspx>

### **Zara Environmental: Jeff Watson**

1707 West FM 1626

Manchaca, TX 78652

Office: 512-291-4555

<https://zaraenvironmental.com/index.html>

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